



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 19, 2024

**From:** Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2024-Vol  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

**Re:** **2024-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan  
Community Priorities**

### Recommendation from the OIC

That the priorities, Property Crime, Organized Crime, Road Safety and Vulnerable Persons, listed in the report titled “2024-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan – Community Priorities”, dated March 19, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be endorsed for inclusion in the Richmond RCMP Detachment’s fiscal year 2024-2025 (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) Annual Performance Plan.

Dave Chauhan  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge  
(604-278-1212)

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## Report

### Origin

The Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Richmond RCMP Detachment (Richmond Detachment) is committed to aligning the Richmond Detachment's strategic goals with the City of Richmond's vision "to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada" and the RCMP's vision to promote safe communities. As such, the Richmond Detachment requests Council's endorsement of its Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

*Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.*

*3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.*

### Findings of Fact

#### Background

As part of the mandate of the Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate, all RCMP units, including the Richmond Detachment, launch a new APP every fiscal year. This process facilitates the continuous improvement of management and administrative practices across the organization and enhances strategic planning activities and performance management tracking. Local APPs are informed by organizational priorities, crime trends, and stakeholder discussions to identify areas for continued enhancement.

The priorities recommended for the APP take into consideration internal RCMP strategic directives and are in alignment with the strategic pillars identified in the 2021-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Strategic Plan:

- People
- Promoting Public Safety
- Targeted Enforcement

These strategic pillars provide the foundation for most operational and administrative initiatives undertaken by the Richmond Detachment, including the priorities identified in the APP. The APP is also guided by the goals and objectives of the RCMP nationwide, including those outlined in the Vision 150 Plan, which serves as a guide for the continued modernization of the RCMP.<sup>1</sup> The priorities recommended for the APP are not intended to serve as an exhaustive list

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<sup>1</sup> Vision 150 and beyond is the RCMP's Strategic Plan, <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/vision150/strategic-plan-strategique/index-eng.htm>

of the Richmond Detachment's policing objectives. Instead, they are informed explicitly by various internal RCMP guiding documents, which allow for a comprehensive, tailored and measured approach to strategic planning and performance management activities at the Richmond Detachment.

The APP ensures that policing initiatives align with the City of Richmond and RCMP strategic priorities and allows the OIC to systematically evaluate and manage police resources, programs, and operations. It also provides a valuable consultation and reporting mechanism for the City, the Commanding Officer of the RCMP "E" Division, and Richmond Detachment staff.

### Planning

The OIC regularly engages with Council and City staff to identify opportunities for improved service delivery in the community. The Richmond Detachment also promotes community and stakeholder engagement in developing responses to policing priorities. This process contributes to a robust framework for strategic planning activities. It allows for the coordination of policing objectives with the City's unique needs, as well as the RCMP's national, provincial and district initiatives. Measurements, targets and integrated risk assessments for policing initiatives are also created annually to monitor performance and manage opportunities and risks.

### Quarterly Performance Updates

Every quarter, Council receives an update on the status of the APP, which highlights the progress of objectives and policing initiatives. The quarterly update includes a summary of actions supporting each priority and outlines any opportunities or challenges that may have emerged.

### Annual Performance Plan Features

The APP is designed to enhance planning, management and administrative practices for RCMP Units and Detachments and provides the foundation for the following five organizational initiatives:<sup>2</sup>

- Contract and Aboriginal Policing Community Plans;
- Integrated Risk Management;
- Unit Level Quality Assurance;
- Performance Management; and
- Performance Improvement.

## **Analysis**

### Community Priorities

The community priorities outlined in the APP are selected through an ongoing strategic planning process, which includes the analysis of police statistics and emerging public safety issues, the review of existing programs and initiatives, and the contributions of regular discussions with

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<sup>2</sup> As per RCMP Administrative Manual Chapter 18.2 Annual Performance Plan

stakeholders. As part of the planning process for the 2021-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Strategic Plan, the Richmond RCMP conducted extensive community engagement. This engagement aligns with the launch of a new plan approximately every five years to ensure that the priorities are current and relevant to the community. Ongoing stakeholder discussions have also led to developing new programs and initiative implementations.

The selected priorities are reviewed to identify possible opportunities and risks. Initiatives supporting each priority are then developed through a collaborative planning process, where performance measures are determined for each priority to assist with evaluating the success and impacts of the initiatives. This process facilitates an effective response to the identified objectives and provides an opportunity to demonstrate accountability to stakeholders and the broader community.

After assessing the impacts of the previous year's APP and analyzing recent crime trends and stakeholder feedback, the OIC is recommending that Council align this year's priorities with those of the last year to maintain the Richmond Detachment's commitment to these strategic priorities while also continuing to develop the responses and initiatives promoting these objectives. As such, the OIC is recommending continuing with the following four priorities for this year's APP (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime;
3. Road Safety; and
4. Vulnerable Persons.

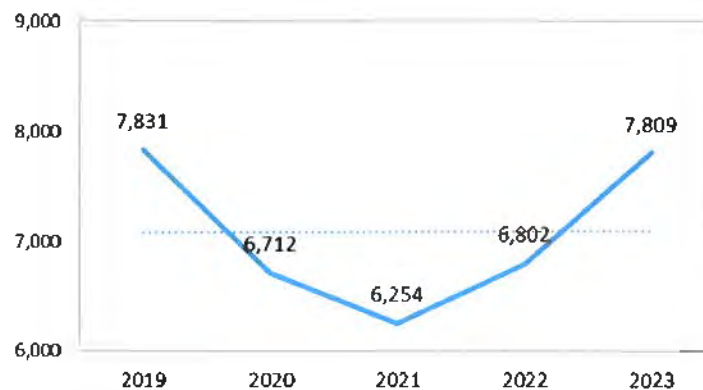
These four priorities are sufficiently broad in scope to cover emerging trends and concerns that are topical to the community.

The remainder of the report provides the rationale for continuing with the established priorities.

#### *Property Crime*

Statistical analysis of property crime incidents for the last five years has identified a stable trend, with prominent reductions between 2020 and 2022, primarily attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as public behaviours have returned to pre-pandemic patterns, property crimes have also increased and returned to previous rates. Due to this observed trend, property crime remains a community priority.

**Figure 1: Property Crime Files**



The Richmond Detachment has continued to deploy a robust crime reduction strategy built on intelligence-led crime analysis to target property crimes. These responsive measures include the management of prolific offenders, proactive policing initiatives, collaborations with partner agencies, targeted enforcement projects, and increased training for police officers. Police will continue to deploy these measures while also working to develop enhanced public engagement and communication strategies, including raising community awareness of crime prevention resources and programs. This approach includes ongoing public messaging regarding emerging patterns and trends, the recently launched “You Etch It. We Catch It” program to combat catalytic converter theft, and the Safe Exchange program to deter thefts from online marketplace sales.

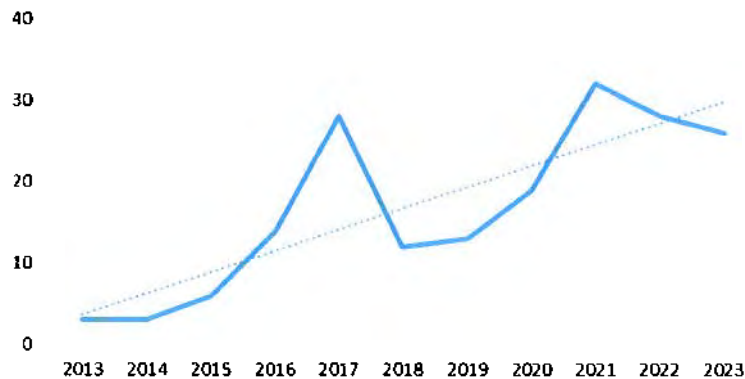
The Richmond Detachment will expand existing crime prevention initiatives by enhancing public outreach and police visibility with regular foot patrols and business outreach and by hosting and attending various events. These have recently included Shoplifting Awareness outreach to local businesses. In addition to serving as crime prevention measures, these activities and the Block Watch program also help enhance public perceptions of community safety. Presentations to different community groups, including seniors and newcomers to Canada, are an additional educational tool which will continue to be promoted. Volunteer programs such as Lock Out Auto Crime, Crime Watch and bike patrols are further measures that support crime prevention initiatives and will continue to be pursued this fiscal year.

***Organized Crime***

The Richmond Detachment has maintained organized crime as a community priority. While the overall violent crime rate remains low in Richmond, the OIC is committed to combatting organized criminal activities, which include drug trafficking, drug production, fraudulent activities and money laundering. These activities pose numerous public safety concerns, including the dangers of clandestine drug labs and gang violence.

While drug offences have been decreasing, the number of deaths related to illicit drug toxicity in Richmond has been trending upward over the last 10 years.<sup>3</sup> Police recognize the danger that these illegal drugs pose to the community, and specialized investigators have worked to target drug trafficking and drug production. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, investigators conducted several significant organized crime-related investigations, including files that led to the seizure of various quantities of drugs, cash, and weapons, resulting in notable arrests.

**Figure 2: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths**



Investigators also continue to see emerging cybercrime trends, such as cryptocurrency fraud. These crimes often have a nexus to organized crime due to their sophisticated and organized nature and the potential for significant monetary gains for criminals. The Economic Crime Unit (ECU) has developed various investigative and awareness initiatives, including enhanced internal training sessions and distribution of public information resources available in English, French and Traditional Chinese. The ECU will continue to expand these programs while exploring additional education and enforcement measures.

The Richmond Detachment continues to prioritize investigations and measures that disrupt organized crime. These initiatives include gang suppression patrols, projects targeting illicit gaming locations, fraud prevention awareness, and programs promoting youth education, intervention, and engagement. In 2023, this included the launch of the Yankee 30 Youth Partnership Car program. This joint initiative involves police officers from Richmond RCMP’s Youth Section working alongside youth probation officers and social workers to support at-risk youth and provide improved access to support services to guide them away from further criminal offences.

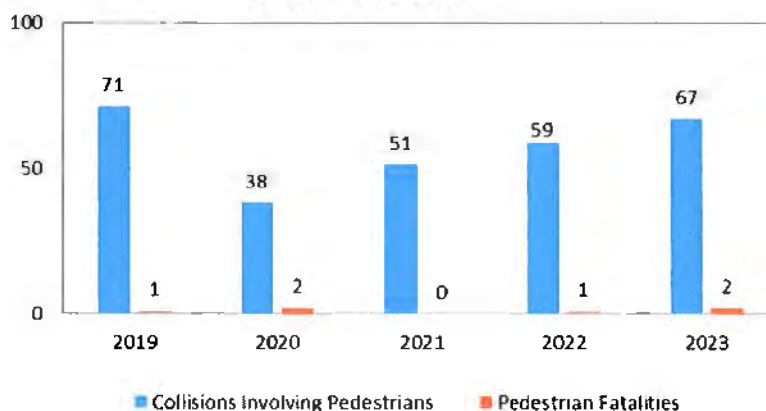
**Road Safety**

The Richmond Detachment continues to improve safety on Richmond’s roads as a community priority by implementing a comprehensive road safety strategy built on intelligence-led analysis, the engagement of community policing volunteers, public education campaigns and ongoing

<sup>3</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

proactive enforcement efforts. Vehicle collisions involving pedestrians decreased during the pandemic; however, in 2023, there was an increase in traffic incidents, with significant injuries or deaths in some incidents. The Detachment is closely monitoring this trend and continuing to prioritize road safety education and enforcement.

**Figure 3: Vehicle Collisions Involving Pedestrians**



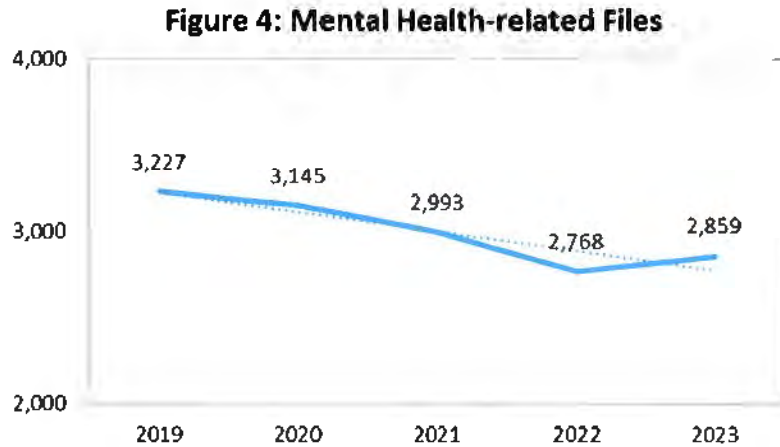
The Richmond Detachment is continuously promoting public education campaigns and leveraging social media to increase awareness of road safety topics, including distracted driving, speeding, impaired driving and pedestrian safety. In addition, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers have conducted road safety outreach and deployments targeting these concerns. These actions have included Fail to Stop and Speed Watch deployments and pedestrian safety outreach events where thousands of safety reflectors were distributed throughout Richmond.

This consistent messaging and ongoing targeted enforcement efforts will remain a priority this fiscal year. Enforcement projects continue to be based on collision data and feedback received from the community. In addition, the Youth Section continues to conduct regular enforcement projects in school zones.

The Richmond Detachment has also engaged partner agencies for a variety of joint operations, including policing agencies from other jurisdictions, City Bylaws and Passenger Transportation Enforcement Officers to target a variety of safety issues. The 2023-2024 fiscal year included projects targeting illegal ride-hailing, e-bike/e-scooter safety and commercial vehicle enforcement.

***Vulnerable Persons***

The Richmond Detachment has maintained vulnerable persons a community priority. After several years of increases, mental health-related calls for service in Richmond began a downward trend starting in 2020. This has been attributed to several factors, including launching the Fox 80 Mental Health Car (Fox 80) in October 2019 in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. This program, which consists of a mental health nurse and police officer providing a joint response to calls where mental health is a concern, offers specialized support to clients in crisis.



While the number of files has decreased, the demand for police resources remains high. The average hospital wait time increased by 15 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year. To address these challenges, the Vulnerable Persons Unit has promoted collaborative responses to complex social issues surrounding vulnerable persons, including mental health concerns, addiction and homelessness. Moreover, the Richmond Detachment has taken on a leadership role to enhance partnerships and client support services by working with stakeholders to find viable solutions to assist vulnerable clients. Fox 80 is the most prominent of these programs; however, various ongoing initiatives exist, including collaboration with the Assertive Community Treatment team.

Homelessness remains an ongoing safety concern. To address the multi-faceted needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and develop sustained solutions to these complex social issues, the VPU collaborates with partners, including the Joint Operations Team. The VPU also continues to conduct regular outreach with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and work with community partners to provide information and facilitate with connecting the unhoused with available support services.

This fiscal year, the Richmond Detachment will continue to focus on collaborative responses to issues surrounding vulnerable persons and will also work on increasing police training and awareness of these issues.

**Financial Impact**

None.



**Conclusion**

Richmond Detachment requests that Council endorse the following as Community Priorities for inclusion in the 2024-2025 Annual Performance Plan (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime;
3. Road Safety; and
4. Vulnerable Persons.

The targeted activities, as described in the APP, will focus on intelligence-led policing, offender management, officer visibility, and crime reduction initiatives through community education, engagement, partnerships, and intervention and prevention programs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Warzel".

Edward Warzel  
Manager, Police Services  
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